

PATENT
Appl. No. 10/073,775
Amdt. dated December 3, 2004
Reply to Office action of 10/07/2004
01-10257

Customer Number
25189
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

2155
JLW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE 06 204
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

in re the application of inventor(s):

O'BRIEN et al.

Serial Number: 10/073,775

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: 02/11/2002

Art Unit: 2155

Confirmation No.: 4117

For: SHARED INTERNET STORAGE RESOURCE, USER INTERFACE SYSTEM, AND METHOD

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
OFFICE ACTION DATED 10/07/2004**

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action restriction requirement dated October 7, 2004, Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute Group I, claims 1 – 22, but traverses the restriction requirement.

It is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement is improper and should be withdrawn. All the claims in the application are closely related and should and could be examined together for reasons of efficiency and economy. Furthermore, the Examiner has failed to show that there would be a “serious burden” if all the figures were examined together. “If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious

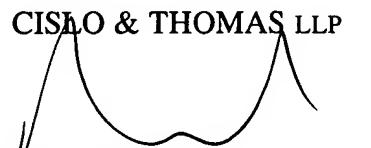
burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent invention." (M.P.E.P. § 803).

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the restriction requirements in view of the foregoing.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone or other conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of the present application, enabling an Examiner's amendment or other meaningful discussion of the case, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.

With the above-referenced changes, it is believed that the application is in a condition for allowance; and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the application on to allowance. It is not believed that any additional fees are due; however, in the event any additional fees are due, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicants' Attorney's Deposit Account No. 03-2030.

Respectfully submitted,


CISLO & THOMAS LLP
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Date: December 3, 2004

DMC/ASJ:erh

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Date